

of association, authorising the company so far to modify the conditions contained in its memorandum of association as by subdivision of its existing shares to divide its capital into shares of smaller amount than is fixed by its memorandum of association, in accordance with the provisions of sections XX. and XXI. of "the Companies' Ordinance, 1877."

The CHAIRMAN moved that the following regulation be added to the articles of association of the company, viz.—"The company may, by special resolution, so far modify the conditions contained in its memorandum of association as by subdivision of its existing shares to divide its capital into shares of smaller amount than is fixed by its memorandum of association."

Mr. LEWIS seconded.

Mr. DEACON.—Mr. Chairman, I will ask you in the first place, in taking these powers, into what smaller denomination you propose to divide the shares.

The CHAIRMAN.—That will be seen at the company's meeting when it is held before you. I will add, however, that it will be done so as to divide the shares into three, so that instead of having one share of \$5,000 liability, and \$1,500 paid up, there will be three, each of \$1,500 liability and \$500 paid up.

Mr. DEACON.—Any objection to that modification will of course come in its proper order at the meeting which is proposed.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think that, while the company is doing well, I don't see why any alteration will do to the company.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have considered that matter, and we have the authority of doing better.

Mr. DEACON.—I know you have considered it. I simply express my opinion as a shareholder. The company is doing well, and I think it is pity to alter it. It is a pity to alter it, because I fail to see any good in it. If you think you will increase your number of risks and consequent premium, I say the last year has been a very good one, and you cannot expect much improvement on that.

The CHAIRMAN.—We do expect an improvement.

Mr. DEACON.—Well, I don't think so and I fear the alteration will only cause more trouble, more knock about on the stock exchange here, which is never a good thing for insurance companies.

The CHAIRMAN.—That we can regulate to some extent.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried. Mr. Deacon only dissenting.

THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS IN CHINA.

We are informed by a correspondent that a few miles to the North-east of Shanghai myriads of locusts were to be seen hovering, swarming in the air, over the fields, where the grain, with those with others, were harvested. The natives were full of anxiety as to what the effect would be, and were concerned to know the cause of such a plague. Ignorant though they be on a variety of subjects, they are apt to moralise on what they consider the judgment of Heaven. We were accustomed to hear them frequently express their views in the way of prophecy, regarding the religious, political, and social events of the day, and it is an interesting element of the Chinese mind, when not wholly engrossed by mere material considerations. Whatever their conduct and character be they are open to impressions of this kind, which are most advantageous in enforcing instruction of the highest importance upon them. The subject is altogether too serious to admit of a sot to be here dwelt upon, but it gives an insight into the physical and moral constitution of the Chinese and the practical teaching of which they have been long accustomed. There is an aspect of the Divine as well as human in the case even of the common people that is richly suggestive, and it may be followed in a manner and to a degree that is little thought of. We may at some future time have an opportunity of investigating. Certain we are that as the religious elements of this people, and the various sources of information by which they are influenced and studied, view of most striking kind will be elicited. We may mention while upon the subject that some Chinese regard the present visitation as an omen of threatening import to the reigning Emperor. That the plague of these insects, forming a link in the chain of disaster, portends a terrible calamity, it is of many signs that Heaven has woe of the Manchu race, and that a revolution of the black-haired race is written in the book of fate.—Shanghai Courier.

THE INSURRECTION IN JAPAN.

Thus far the attempts recently made by the Government to bring about a compromise with Sato have failed, and fighting between Imperialists and Sato's forces has continued with unabated fury. Sato's forces are proceeding to Kuchin, and it is reported that he has been granted with power to offer terms of peace to his brother. But such is the spirit of the insurgents and their commanders, and so far do they appear to feel of eventual success on what ground it is impossible by merely reading the native papers to determine that they are more likely to reject than accept a compromise? Even so it is believed that the insurrection is to proceed to Kuchin, and it is reported that he has been granted with power to offer terms of peace to his brother. But such is the spirit of the insurgents and their commanders, and so far do they appear to feel of eventual success on what ground it is impossible by merely reading the native papers to determine that they are more likely to reject than accept a compromise?

The German steamer *Sagami*, which is proceeding to Kuchin, and it is reported that he has been granted with power to offer terms of peace to his brother. But such is the spirit of the insurgents and their commanders, and so far do they appear to feel of eventual success on what ground it is impossible by merely reading the native papers to determine that they are more likely to reject than accept a compromise?

The past fortnight has been extremely quiet and uneventful in this Colony. Major-General Sir Francis Colborne left this colony for Europe on the 1st and 2nd inst., and a steamer *Pavia* was fired from the shore bar.

Mr. Mansfield, the boatswain of Her Majesty's gun-boat *Hart*, who died of heart-attack whilst the vessel was on a cruise on the 7th inst., was interred on the 8th inst. at half-past four o'clock. The steamer *Aspidon*, acting Consul, and a Chinese boy, who had been captured by the pirates, was sent to the *Hart* to be sent to Hong Kong, and the steamer *Aspidon* portents a terrible calamity, it is of many signs that Heaven has woe of the Manchu race, and that a revolution of the black-haired race is written in the book of fate.—Shanghai Courier.

men-of-war in port semi down their yards and got up steam. The Italian corvette, *Cristoforo Colombo*, was moored with a anchor, and about 2 p.m. dragged her anchors, but fortunately did not drag her anchor and safely rode out the storm. Soon after noon a junk, laden with bamboo, which was lying on the French hatches, commenced to drag her anchors and shortly afterwards drifted ashore. Her position was then a perilous one, and as there were three men and a boy on board who could not swim, great anxiety to get them off the vessel was manifested. On the 10th a boat was sent to the junk, and about 10 a.m. the crew were taken off the vessel, and the boat came in hauling. A great deal of commendable gallantry was shown on this occasion.

Farther up the bend the steam dredger which has been lying off the mouth of the creek for so long was observed to be in danger. She had dragged her anchors until she lay within a few yards of the mud bank, and the wind began to blow with increasing violence, and the weather was excessively hot, and the thermometer standing at 90°. On the 11th it rose to 94° Fahrenheit, and the barometer ranged from 29.5 to 30.6°. On the 12th she shipped a sea which filled the cabin and fore-hatches, carrying away barrels and stanchions. She had some weather, accompanied by much thunder and lightning, till the 15th, when the wind moderated and shifted to the N.E.

For several days lately a typhoon signal was hoisted, and the wind was generally strong, the weather was excessively hot, and the thermometer standing at 90°. On the 16th it rose to 94° Fahrenheit, and the barometer ranged from 29.5 to 30.6°. On the 17th a strong breeze, accompanied by terrific gales and thunder and lightning, increased by noise, a heavy gale, splitting the top-sail, brought up the ship to a standstill, and a large portion of the vessel to which the crew clinging, driftwood, and other articles were fastened, and the ship was driven ashore. Her position was then a perilous one, and as there were three men and a boy on board who could not swim, great anxiety to get them off the vessel was manifested. On the 18th, in a very heavy sea, the crew were taken off the vessel, and the boat came in hauling. A great deal of commendable gallantry was shown on this occasion.

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J A P A N.

A mournful prospect opened through the Settlement on the 16th ultim. When the remains of the late Captain Bar of H.M.S. *Sybil*, were conveyed to the cemetery. His death, which took place the previous morning was quite unexpected, and the news must have shocked not a few of those who, knowing his sterling worth, honoured him in his profession and value him as a friend. Captain Bar was born in 1813, and in 1836 he commanded the *Shropshire* on the S.E. coast of America until he was promoted to the rank of Commander in the following year. He served as second in command on board the *Archer* and *Hector*. Home service from 1868 to 1871, in May of which year he was appointed to take command of the *St. John* of China. In August, 1875, appointed to the *Sybil* in November, 1876, and took command of her in Hongkong early in February of the present year. It was while in charge of the *Dwarf* that the late officer secured the friendship of so many who are now lamenting his early death, and in a book entitled "Our Cruises in the *Dwarf*" what he did on his return to England will be told in many far better and full of interest hours spent in the Far East. His death is the more lamentable since he leaves a widow and young family to mourn his untimely loss.

H.M.S. *Sybil* left on the 18th ult. to resume her surveying duties on the Corean coast, under the temporary command of Lieut. Robert Hoskyn, who has been appointed to the rank of Commander by the Queen's chief naval admiralty board. The rank of captain in the *Sybil* is filled up by the Admiralty.

On the 16th ult. during some manipulations with a bomb shell in the Port, an explosion occurred setting fire to some ammunition which was stored in a small hut. About four frequent explosions of bombs took place, and considerable anxiety was felt, as it was known that large quantities of powder were stored in the same time being. Fire men are said to have been instrumental in their efforts to avert the danger; but no deaths are reported.

About two thousand pieces of when having arrived in Nagasaki from the province of Chikuzen, the hour mill was started on the 17th ult., but unfortunately operations were very soon brought to a standstill through some slight trouble with the machinery, which could not be repaired, so work under way again, and as further supplies of wheat are received, this new branch of industry may be looked upon as fairly established. The disturbed state of the country somewhat militates against the success of the undertaking, inasmuch as the principal wheat growing districts of the south are at present scenes of fighting and bloodshed.—*Rising Sun.*

YOKOHAMA.

The *Abenoh Shimbun* reports that the Mitsui Bishi Company is about to establish an arsenal and dockyard at Fushanoko, between Yokosuka and Kanazawa. The survey estimate puts the expense of the dockyard alone at 50,000 yen.

The Italian Government, represented by their Ambassador, Mr. G. C. T. de' Rossi, presented a protest to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the 15th ultime from Kolo, having on board His Excellency the Italian Minister, who was presented to the Mikado at Kioto, with the captain and two of the officers of the vessel, on the 20th ult.

The Government are making laudable and successful efforts toward the attainment of one of the best objects of their ambition, the connection by telegraph of all the towns in the empire. A line has been laid between Tokyo and Yedo in Higo and Satsuma in Sasebo.

Earthquakes of some intensity have been, for this time of year, unusually prevalent lately. A small shock was felt on the evening of the 22nd ultimo at seven minutes to five. Its duration was about thirty-five seconds. Another shock was experienced at half-past five on the 23rd ultimo.

The report of the Home and Foreign Market Price states that the time for the sale of silk worms' egg cards is approaching. \$180,000 cards are to be issued by the Government. More than one third will be sold to foreigners. The price is estimated at an average of 50 sen per card.—*Japan Gazette.*

TOKIO.

The new residence of H.E. Okuma, Minister of the Finances Department, is now completed.

It is estimated to have cost about 30,000 yen. A small island, called Toshima, lies about 100 English miles south of Tosa, and is about 116 English miles in circumference. It is said that Toninaga, one of the Choshu insurgents, who rose in rebellion during the later part of last year, was here when the island was captured by communication with Sasebo. The latter is said to have crossed the channel to the same island. Meanwhile another rumour states that before Hiyoshi castle was taken by the imperialists, Saigo left for the island of Toshima, where he had lived many years in exile during the Shogun's reign.

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J. M. M. R. T. ATKINSON & CO.
have received,

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"ATROLL," STEAMSHIP "CITY OF PEKING,"

AND OTHER RECENT ARRIVALS,

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VERY FINE CHERBOURG BUTTER

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List issued in July.

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E. and J. BURKE, in Casks of 4 Dozen Quarts,

at \$3.50 per Cask.

GUINNESS'S DUBLIN STOUT, bottled by

E. and J. BURKE, in Casks of 8 Dozen Pints, at

\$13 per Cask.

BASS & CO.'S PALE ALE, bottled by CAME-

RON and SAVNDERS, in Casks of 4 Dozen Quarts,

at \$3.50 per Cask.

BASS & CO.'S PALE ALE, bottled by CAME-

RON and SAVNDERS, in Casks of 8 Dozen Pints,

at \$13 per Cask.

PORLAND CEMENT.

FIRE CLAY.

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BOOKS.

NOVELS.

WORKS of REFERENCE.

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PRESENTATION BOOKS, &c., &c.

Hongkong, 9th August, 1877. [1978]

FOR SALE, PER 1 DOZEN QUARTS.

THOMAS HUBBUCK and SONS' PAINTS and

COATS OF ARMS.

PEACOCK'S COMPOSITION PAINT.

INDIA-RUBBER SHEETS, all sizes.

TUCK'S PATENT PACKING, all sizes.

FROST'S ENGLISH WHITE FLAX

PACKING.

PORLAND CEMENT.

FIRE CLAY.

STATIONERY of all kinds.

MAPPINS and RODGERS' CUTLERY.

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CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.

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